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By MRH NARA Date 9/4/01
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AF FORM 112—PART I
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

COUNTRY	REPORT NO.	(LEAVE BLANK)
GERMANY	D-58-B-2972 A	

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

SUBJECT		
Area Description of NORILSK		
AREA REPORTED ON: NORILSK, USSR		FROM (Agency): 7050th AISW (USAFE)
DATE OF REPORT: 8 Feb 54	DATE OF INFORMATION: Sep 45 - Jul 53	EVALUATION: F-6
PREPARED BY (Officer): JOSEPH L. FESER		SOURCE: 199920

REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable): None

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)

I. PREAMBLE:

While interned in the Forced Labor Camp, Pt 4, from Sep 45 to Apr 49, and in Forced Labor Camp, Pt 6, from Apr 49 to Jul 53, in NORILSK (6920N-8810E), SOURCE worked as a switchman in the Nickel Mine, Pt 3. SOURCE was never allowed to leave his working place, and his area of observations was limited to the way between Forced Labor Camps, Pt 4 and 6, and the Nickel Mine, Pt 3. All info contained within this Report is based on SOURCE's personal observations and experiences and on talks to Russian civilians and forced laborers of nearly all European nationalities.

II. LIST OF INSTALLATIONS AND POINTS OF INTEREST:

Ref is made to Incl 1, Memory Sketch of the Area of NORILSK (6920N-8810E), on which SOURCE identified the following points:

1. CITY OF NORILSK. SOURCE never entered the city, but was able to look into it from Forced Labor Camp, Pt 4, since the camp was located approx 400 m higher than the city. The distance was about 5 km in N direction. Russian forced laborers told SOURCE that the NULLOVOY PIKET (SOURCE's spelling) (Zero Sea Level) was located at an unidentified place in the city. It is possible that various unidentified parts of the city were located even below sea level. SOURCE heard from other forced laborers that 20 labor camps with unknown cap were located in NORILSK and vicinity. SOURCE estimated the population at 50,000. The majority of the population were Russians, whereas the local people in the country were "TUNGUSEN" (SOURCE's spelling) an Eskimo-like tribe. Most of the Russians in the city were freed forced laborers or Communist volunteers. In the N section of the city, known as GORSTROY (SOURCE's spelling), SOURCE observed heavy residential constr activity. The entire city made a modern impression with multi-story brick residential houses with tarred flat and gabled wooden roofs. Around the periphery SOURCE saw about 12 smokestacks emitting a dark, dense smoke. Judging from the smell SOURCE was positive that one of the unidentified plants was a cokery. The other smokestacks apparently belonged to unidentified ore processing plants. SOURCE said that the official name of the city was NORILSK KRASNOYARSKY KRAY (SOURCE's spelling). The highest administrative official was an unknown MVD Col, titled NACHALNIK NORILSKY COMBINATA (SOURCE's spelling). As far as SOURCE was able to observe the city had electricity and water supply.

2. ROAD. Dirt. Winding down the mountain, indicated by the Contour Form Line, Pt 5. SOURCE stated that it was impossible to give any constructional details, since the road was merely a level track formed by the usage of trucks, horse carts, and pedestrians. SOURCE observed that none of the drivers followed the road, but took their own way cross-country. Apart from a few ZIS trucks, conveying consumer goods,

1 INCLS.

Memory Sketch of NORILSK p. 5

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AF FORM 112 — PART III
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE 3 OF 5 PAGES
7050th AISW	D-58-B-2972 A	

SOURCE observed no traffic.

3. NICKEL MINE. Geographical altitude 460 m above sea level. Equipped with American MARION and MAGOR machines. The daily cap was 2500 tons of nickel ore. No observations as to transshipment or further destinations. It was rumored that apart from nickel unknown quantities of cobalt, gold, silver, platinum, and other unidentified ores were found.

4. FORCED LABOR CAMP. Non-permanent. Amongst Russians, Ukrainians, Poles, Czechs, Rumanians, Italians, French, Germans, Latvians, and Hungarians, was also one Englishman. SOURCE never talked to him, but heard from other forced laborers that he was an Englishman. SOURCE could give no details as to how he got there or his future fate.

5. CONTOUR FORM LINE. Approximate indication of the boundary of a mountain. Location of highest elevation unknown.

6. FORCED LABOR CAMP. Non-permanent.

7. MOUNTAIN. Altitude unknown.

8. COAL MINE. SOURCE believed that the N part of Mountain, Pt 7, consisted of coal, which was mined in open working pits.

9. NARROW GAUGE RR. The only existing RR within 1500 km. Connecting NORILSK and DUDINKA (6925N-8610E) on the YENISSEE River, which was about 100 km W of NORILSK. The only possibility to reach NORILSK was - apart from aircraft (see under General Information) - via the Arctic Sea, upstream the YENISSEE River to DUDINKA, and then via the Narrow Gauge RR to NORILSK, or from KRASNOYARSK (5602N-9248E) upstream the YENISSEE River to DUDINKA. A boat journey from KRASNOYARSK to DUDINKA took 9 days, as SOURCE experienced on his return trip. SOURCE could give no constructional or traffic details of the line, but stated that all consumer goods for NORILSK were transported via the Narrow Gauge RR. Since the YENISSEE River was frozen 7 to 8 months of the year, all goods had to be transported in the Summer months. SOURCE never experienced any shortages. According to Russian civilians food and consumer goods were stored in DUDINKA.

III. GENERAL INFORMATION:

SOURCE personally believed that NORILSK had no military importance. Apart from an unidentified guard detachment, he heard of no other garrisons. SOURCE occasionally saw unidentified double-engined aircraft flying at low altitude over the City of NORILSK, Pt 1. Russian civilians told SOURCE that an unidentified airfield was in or near NORILSK. Some Russian civilians referred to the aircraft as to DOUGLAS types. SOURCE believed that they were civilian transport- and passenger planes. The entire area was predominant with coal and nickel ore mines. Unidentified derricks were erected on various unlocated places, and SOURCE believed that trial borings were done. The only vegetation were grass and bushes. It was rumored that the Russians had tried to plant unidentified herbs. In this connection the name of the Russian scientist MITCHURIN was mentioned. The average summer temperatures were plus 10° centigrade. Winter temperatures minus 40° centigrade. SOURCE experienced temperatures of minus 60° centigrade with wind velocity of 30m/sec. According to Russian civilians the winter temperatures in the City of NORILSK, Pt 1, were normally lower but the wind was calmer. The area was snow covered from beginning of Oct to beginning of May. The height of snow was up to 15 m. Even in Summer the ground was frozen hard and ice never disappeared completely. Only the most upper surface changed to mud and made all vehicular traffic impossible.

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AF FORM 112 — PART II
APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE 4 OF 5 PAGES
7050th AISW	D-58-B-2972 A	

SOURCE stated that the free Russians were well dressed. Average wages were 1000 Rubel per month plus an unknown "polar" allowance. The population lived on mining. SOURCE had the impression that NORILSK was constantly expanding, and mining and ore processing was being further developed.

Philip N. Rupp, 1st Lt. USAF
JOSEPH L. FESER
Major USAF
Commander
7058th AISS

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